



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 28, 2006

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OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

Keep kitchen fire safety in mind...Pay attention when you cook

Nashville, TN.- The State Fire Marshal's Office reminds Tennesseans that more than 100,000 fires reported in the U.S. involve cooking equipment, and the majority of them are caused by unattended cooking.

The problem is serious here in Tennessee as the state had the fourth highest fire death rate in the nation between the years 1998 through 2002. Governor Bredesen has officially proclaimed the month of October as Fire Prevention and Safety Month.

Here are some helpful tips to protect your family and home from a kitchen fire:

- Don't leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the room, turn off the stove.
- If you are baking, roasting, or simmering food use a timer to remind you of it.
- If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother it by carefully sliding the lid over the pan, turn off the burner and wait for it to cool. Never pour water on a grease fire.
- For a fire in the oven, turn off the heat and keep the door closed and wait for the fire to go out. If it doesn't, get out and call the fire department immediately.
- Keep a fire extinguisher within easy reach and in the exit path of the kitchen. Know how to use it and keep it inspected and maintained.
- Keep areas next to the stove clean from combustible items and flammable liquids.

A child's skin is thinner than an adults and it is important to remember that this causes children to be more susceptible to burn injuries. The kitchen can be very dangerous for this reason. Try to use the stove's back burners whenever possible and keep children at least three feet from any cooking appliance.

"Most fire deaths and injuries in the home are preventable and it's tragic that Tennesseans are among the most at risk. Make fire safety a priority in your home to prevent needless injuries and damage," says State Fire Marshal Paula Flowers.

For more information on home fire safety, visit <http://www.state.tn.us/commerce/sfm>.

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